

## CURRENT RORC PROJECTS

RORC Investigators' projects will:

- Examine population level effects of stroke rehabilitation services,
- Evaluate the relationships between structure, process and outcomes of stroke rehabilitation,
- Assess utilization of community based nursing home for rehabilitation,
- Use VA databases to assess disability states and associated health care utilization patterns,
- Develop new stroke specific outcome measures and assess different methods of acquiring outcomes data,
- Describe stroke recovery and the influences of ethnic diversity, and
- Determine the appropriateness and cost-effectiveness of the assistive technology for homebound veterans.



*Dr. Craig Velozo presents results from one of his studies at the annual RORC Investigator Retreat.*

## VISIT US ON THE WEB:

[www.va.gov/rorc](http://www.va.gov/rorc)



Research Service (151B)  
Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center  
1601 SW Archer Road  
Gainesville, FL 32608

Phone: 352-376-1611, ext. 6843

Fax: 352-271-4540

Email: [RORC@med.va.gov](mailto:RORC@med.va.gov)

Web Site:

[www.va.gov/rorc](http://www.va.gov/rorc)

© 2005 Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center

## REHABILITATION OUTCOMES RESEARCH CENTER



## CENTER INFORMATION

WEB SITE

[www.va.gov/rorc](http://www.va.gov/rorc)

PHONE

352-376-1611, ext. 6843

## MISSION AND GOALS

The Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center for Veterans with Central Nervous System Damage (RORC) was established on October 1, 2001 as the first combined VA Health Services Research and Development/ Rehabilitation Research and Development Center of Excellence. The RORC research programs are evaluating the clinical and cost-effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions to ultimately improve quality of care and provide evidence for informed decision-making about the provision of rehabilitation services. Development of best outcomes measures is critical to the evaluation of rehabilitation services.



*Pamela W. Duncan, Ph.D.  
RORC Director*

## MISSION

The overall mission of the RORC is to enhance access, quality, and efficiency of rehabilitation services through interdisciplinary research and dissemination activities.

There are four research focus areas:

1. Evaluating, developing, and integrating clinical and administrative data to evaluate structure, process, and outcomes of rehabilitation services;
2. Advancing outcomes measurements in CNS damage and rehabilitation;
3. Examining psychosocial aspects of recovery and caregiving; and
4. Evaluating assistive technologies and tele-homecare to improve independence and quality of life.

## GOALS

There are seven major goals that the RORC Core investigators and Operations Committee have established. These goals are aligned with four Research Focus Areas and two Core Areas (Methodology, Career Development).

### GOAL #1

Conduct studies that will help to explain and guide improvements in the design, administration, management, and access to rehabilitation services; as well as model costs of changes in disability states attributable to rehabilitation.

### GOAL #2

Use the ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health) framework, item response theory methodologies, and our experience the in development of specific outcomes measures to advance measurement in rehabilitation.

### GOAL #3

Examine psychosocial aspects and ethnic and cultural variations of recovery and caregiving and evaluate newly emerging therapies and technologies in rehabilitation.

### GOAL #4

Develop and evaluate assistive technologies and tele-homecare strategies to improve independence and quality of life; and reduce unnecessary health care interventions for veterans with functional impairment resulting from chronic diseases and central nervous system damage.

### GOAL #5

Provide methodological support in statistics, database design and development, economics, epidemiology, psychometrics, and qualitative methods to researchers at the RORC/BRRC.

### GOAL #6

Enhance capacity for rehabilitation outcomes research through our Career Development Program.

### GOAL #7

Build capacity for rehabilitation outcomes research Investigators.

## RORC LEADERSHIP

Pamela W. Duncan, PhD, FAPTA *Director*  
Rebecca J. Beyth, MD, MSc, *Associate Director*  
Diane C. Cowper, PhD, *Assistant Director*  
(Operations)  
Maude R. Rittman, PhD, RN, *Assistant Director*  
(Career Development)

## RORC INVESTIGATORS

Elena Andresen, PhD  
Craig Boylstein, PhD  
Katherine Byers, PhD  
Neale Chumbler, PhD  
Jami Dellifraire, PhD  
Christopher Faircloth, PhD  
Lisa Hannold, PhD  
Jeanne Hayes, PhD  
Huanguang Jia, PhD  
Yongsung Joo, PhD  
Sooyeon Kwon, PhD  
Barbara Lutz, PhD, RN  
Dean Reker, PhD, RN  
L Douglas Ried, PhD  
Dorian Rose, PhD, PT  
Heather Spring, PhD, RN  
James Stansbury, PhD  
Connie Uphold, PhD, ARNP  
Craig Velozo, PhD  
W Bruce Vogel, PhD  
Samuel Wu, PhD

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Ellen Esparolini, *Administrative Officer*  
Charisma Brown, *Program Assistant*  
Elizabeth Cope, *IT Specialist*  
Sonya Gallagher, *Grants/IRB Specialist*  
Wanda Hines, *Receptionist*  
Charleen Roberts, *Budget Technician*  
Wendi Spisak, *Program Assistant*  
Kristen Wing, *Webmaster*

